

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

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The CR Recommends

By RAY COONEY, BAILEY CLINE, LOUISE RONALD, CHRIS SCHANZ and HUGH HANLIN

The Commercial Review

This feature is something we created in 2019, a play on the top 10 and best of lists that tend to populate media during the holiday season.

It's difficult to believe this is our fifth iteration of The CR Recommendations. But here we are.

Over the years, we've recommended everything from farmers' markets to food items to fiction thrillers to reality TV shows.

With the continued slimming of our writing staff, we decided to invite some folks to contribute beyond those of us who are in the big, brick building on Main Street every day. The following includes recommendations from our former sports editor and a couple of The Graphic Printing Company's board members.

We hope these suggestions open the door to something new for you, our readers, to enjoy.

Books

A Breath Too Late

The day after she dies, Ellie Walker finds herself in a limbo world where she witnesses the effect of her suicide on her family and high school friends. Shades of "It's a Wonderful Life" and "The Lovely Bones," this book is its own story, beautifully written by Rocky Callen and full of compassion for all concerned. Callen invites the reader to think about what might have been done differently — not only by Ellie herself but by everyone surrounding her. It's designed to

start conversations before it's "a breath too late" for others. Includes a list of resources for help. — Louise Ronald

Behind Their Screens: What Teens Are Facing (and Adults Are Missing)

Social media is a challenge for most parents raising children starting in late childhood and lasting through

adolescents. This book by Emily Weinstein and Carrie James provides parents with an understanding of social media including the necessary, good, bad and dangerous in an even-handed discussion. The authors avoid the easy answers that often result in power struggles and angry outbursts, instead the book stresses understanding the perception

of the youth and how social media works within a youth's peer group. — Hugh Hanlin

The War That Saved My Life and The War I Finally Won

This is a double recommendation because the second is a sequel to the first. These are technically young reader books, but they were recommended by my mom and are spectacular. Set in World War II, they tell the tale of a young girl and her brother who have been neglected by their mother and are struggling to find their place in the world. "The War that Saved My Life" won the John Newbery Medal for the author of the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children. — Ray Cooney

See **Recommendations** page 5



Grad rate has been stagnant

By CASEY SMITH

Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Graduation rates for Indiana's 2022 high school class remained mostly unchanged compared to the year prior, but certain student groups still lag behind their peers.

Data shows 86.61% of Hoosier students in the Class of 2022 reached graduation, according to a new report released Friday by the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE).

That's almost the same as 2021, when the state graduation rate was recorded at 86.69%. In 2020, 87.69% of high school seniors earned high school diplomas.

Because state and federal testing requirements were waived in 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the state education department advises "caution" when comparing current and past rates to the 2020 graduating class, however.

The state's latest graduation numbers are on par with other states. The national high school graduation rate was 86% in 2019, according to the National Center for Education Statistics, the most recent year for which figures are available.

Although some graduate numbers are showing improvement, economic and racial disparities still persist between student groups.

Statewide, graduation rates increased by roughly a half-point for Black students and just more than a full point for Hispanic students.

English learners and special education students saw somewhat better gains.

The English learner graduation rate jumped from 82.8% in 2021 to 85.6% in 2022. The rate for students receiving special education services additionally increased to 76.4% in 2022, up from 74.5% in 2021. That continues to be the lowest graduation rate of all student groups, however.

See **Grad** page 5

Police chief was killed in shootout

By MEGAN GUZA and MEGAN TOMASIC

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
Tribune News Service

PITTSBURGH — A small-town police chief was gunned down Monday afternoon outside Pittsburgh, and the suspect was shot and killed hours later in another exchange of gunfire with law enforcement, authorities said.

Brackenridge Police Chief Justin McIntire and an officer from nearby Tarentum, Pennsylvania, confronted a man who police in Allegheny County had been seeking since he fled a traffic stop the previous night.

The Tarentum officer was shot and wounded. McIntire was shot in the head and died at the scene, officials said.

Hundreds of officers flooded the small borough 20 miles northeast of Pittsburgh, searching for the suspect who police identified as 28-year-old Aaron Lamont Swan Jr.

That massive response shifted by evening as dozens of police cruisers lined Route 28 south-

bound, lights ablaze, to honor the chief as a procession of officers brought his body from the scene to the Allegheny County Medical Examiner's office.

Dozens of officers from departments across the county lined 16th Street and Liberty Avenue in the Strip District. The slow, snaking procession arrived at the Penn Avenue office around 9 p.m.

"He's going to be sorely missed, there's no doubt about that," Fire Chief Rick Jones said of McIntire on Monday evening, noting that McIntire grew up in the borough. "It's going to be a big blow for the borough."

The medical examiner identified McIntire as the victim early Tuesday morning. An official identification was still pending for Swan as of 6 a.m.

The search for Swan began with much less urgency Sunday night when he fled a traffic stop by Pennsylvania State Police on Route 28, according to Allegheny County Police Superintendent Chris Kearns.



The Commercial Review/Connie Ronald

First eagles

A pair of bald eagles perch high in the trees on New Year's Day at Loblolly Marsh Nature Preserve in northern Jay County.

Deaths

Elizabeth Murray, 90, Angola
June Wendel, 87, Portland
Joe Louck, 86, Redkey
Viola Miller, 85, Fort Recovery
Details on page 2.

Weather

The temperature in Jay County hovered between 49 and 55 degrees Monday.
Tonight's forecast calls for a low of 51 with a 20% chance of rain and winds gusting to 20 miles per hour. Expect the temperature to fall into the 40s Wednesday with rain possible.
See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

United Way of Jay County and Second Harvest Food Bank will partner for a free food tailgate from 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday at Jay County Fairgrounds. Income verification is not required.

In review

Wednesday is the first day a candidate can file for candidacy for the 2023 municipal elections. Offices up for election this year include mayor and clerk-treasurer in both Portland and Dunkirk.



CR almanac

Wednesday 1/4	Thursday 1/5	Friday 1/6	Saturday 1/7	Sunday 1/8
53/33 There's a 20% chance of rain in the afternoon under mostly cloudy skies.	39/31 Thursday also has a slight chance of rain. Otherwise, mostly cloudy.	37/29 Another day of mostly cloudy skies is expected Friday, with a low around 29 late.	38/28 Saturday's forecast shows a 40% chance of rain, snow and freezing rain early.	38/27 Partly sunny throughout the day, with a high in the mid to upper 30s.

Lotteries

Powerball Monday 7-9-12-31-62 Powerball: 22 Power Play: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$291 million	22-25-35-37-41-47-48-51-54-55-62-64-67-68-69-70-76 Cash 5: 12-17-37-38-42 Estimated jackpot: \$130,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$785 million	Ohio Monday Midday Pick 3: 6-7-4 Pick 4: 0-0-4-9 Pick 5: 1-3-9-7-9 Evening Pick 3: 7-2-9 Pick 4: 8-3-1-2 Pick 5: 2-1-8-1-7 Rolling Cash 5: 10-22-26-27-38 Estimated jackpot: \$306,000 Classic Lotto: 19-21-23-24-29-43 Kicker: 5-0-0-7-7-1 Jackpot: \$3.5 million
Hoosier Monday Midday Daily Three: 7-5-4 Daily Four: 5-1-8-0 Quick Draw: 7-9-10-11-13-24-32-36-41-48-52-53-63-64-68-69-71-73-79 Evening Daily Three: 4-5-8 Daily Four: 4-3-7-4 Quick Draw: 13-16-17-	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....6.87 Feb. corn6.89 March corn6.91	Wheat 7.25 July wheat 7.70
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....6.91 Feb. corn6.92 March corn6.94	Central States Montpelier Corn.....6.71 March corn6.75 Beans14.94 Feb. beans14.97 Wheat7.71
The Andersons Richland Township Corn.....6.76 Feb. corn6.76 Beans14.99 Feb. beans15.04	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....6.45 Feb. corn6.47 Beans14.83 Feb. beans14.88 Wheat7.40

Today in history

In 1521, German priest Martin Luther was excommunicated by Pope Leo X. Luther's questions about Roman Catholic practices started the Protestant Reformation. (On the same day, in 1962, Pope John XXIII excommunicated Fidel Castro for changing Cuba into a communist state.)

In 1793, Lucretia Mott was born in Nantucket, Massachusetts. Mott became an activist in several reform movements, including abolition, temperance and pacifism, and she helped organize the Women's Rights Convention at Seneca Falls in 1848, launching the woman suffrage movement.

In 1959, Fidel Castro took command of Cuba. Two years later, the United States broke its diplomatic relations with the country.

In 1959, Alaska joined the United States, becoming the 49th and largest state.

In 1977, Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak incorporated Apple. Their company became known for its computer and electronic products, most notably the iPhone.

In 1990, Panama General Manuel Antonio Noriega surrendered to the United States military after

undergoing 10 days of psychological warfare, including blaring rock music at the Vatican embassy where he took refuge.

In 1996, the Motorola StarTAC — it was the first mobile flip phone — became available for sale.

In 2000, the final original "Peanuts" comic strip was published following the death of creator Charles Schultz. His creation had run for 50 years.

In 2001, Hillary Clinton was sworn in as U.S. senator. She became the first first lady to win elective office.

In 2004, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's exploration rover, Spirit, landed on Mars. Spirit studied the climate history and water, uncovering evidence Mars was once a much wetter planet.

In 2011, Jay County Commissioners granted a rollover of vacation time for a highway department employee. Superintendent Ken Wellman asked commissioners to roll over two weeks of vacation time for the department's road foreman, who wasn't able to take the time off because of weather-related work.

—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St. 7 p.m. — Pennville Town Council, town hall, 105 N. Washington St.	7 p.m. — Salamonia Town Council, Schoolhouse Community Center. Wednesday 7 a.m. — Jay County Board of Health, 504 W. Arch St., Portland.
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Obituaries

Elizabeth Murray

July 18, 1932-Dec. 31, 2022
Elizabeth Ann Murray went to be with her Lord and Savior on Saturday, Dec. 31, 2022, while at Lakeland Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center in Angola, Indiana. She was 90 years old at the time of her passing.

Elizabeth was born in Portland, Indiana on July 17, 1932, the daughter of Frank and Myrtle Fowler who preceded her in death. She attended and graduated from Jay County High School. She worked for more than 25 years at Jay Garment Factory. She enjoyed crocheting, word puzzle books and watching old western movies on television. She was always known as a prankster even in her last hours.



Murray

She was married for 28 years to Robert Murray who passed away in 2014. Randy David, a nephew, has been her caregiver since her husband passed away. She was also preceded in death by her two sisters, Cora Garringer (Thurman) and Betty Smith (Sam); and her two brothers, Bud Fowler and Dick Fowler.

She is survived by her sister Mable (Mayer) David. She has been blessed by many nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be held on Thursday from noon to 2 p.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Funeral services will follow at 2 p.m. on Thursday at the funeral home. Burial will follow at IOOF Twin Hill Cemetery, Pennville, Indiana.

Memorials may be directed to St. Jude Research Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105. Condolences may be expressed at williamsonspencer.com.

June Wendel

Jan. 28, 1935-Jan. 1, 2023
June M. Wendel, age 87, of Portland passed away Sunday, Jan. 1, 2023, in The Waters of Dunkirk in Dunkirk, Indiana.

She was born in Connorsville on Jan. 28, 1935, the daughter of Virgil and Leona (Greer) Millett. She was married on Oct. 20, 1956, to Darel "Bud" Wendel and he died on Oct. 2, 2014. June was a L.P.N. and critical care nurse for Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie. She was past presi-

dent of the Plant, Hoe and Hope Club in Portland.

Surviving are two sons, Bruce Wendel (wife: Karen) of Bluffton, South Carolina, and Joe Wendel of Portland; and one granddaughter, Lauren Wendel.

There will be no funeral services. Burial will be in the Green Park Cemetery in Portland.

Baird-Freeman Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Memorials can be made to the Jay County Humane Society.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.



Wendel

Friends are invited to call Thursday, Jan. 5, 2023, from 4 to 8 p.m. and Friday, Jan. 6, 2023, from 10 to 11 a.m. at MJS Mortuaries - Redkey Chapel. Funeral services will follow at 11 a.m. Friday with Pastor Craig Cotherman and Pastor Chuck Hollandbeck officiating. Burial will be held in Hillcrest Cemetery in Redkey, Indiana.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Redkey Nazarene Church.

Arrangements have been entrusted to MJS Mortuaries - Redkey Chapel.

Viola Miller

Nov. 26, 1937-Dec. 31, 2022
Viola Rose Miller, 85, of Fort Recovery, Ohio, passed away peacefully on Saturday, Dec. 31, 2022, at Persimmon Ridge Rehabilitation Centre in Portland, Indiana.

She was born on Nov. 26, 1937, in Carthage, Ohio, to the late Bernard and Bernadine (Weitzel) Wenning.

Vi is survived by her daughters, Darlene (Cyril) Pottkotter of Fort Recovery, Ohio, Miriam (Todd) Bantz of Victorville, California, and Sharon (Greg) Sheffer and Dee (Michael) Marchal, all of Portland, Indiana; her six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren; her sisters-in-law, Agnes Wenning and Joan Wenning, both of St. Marys, Ohio; and her in-laws, Arleen Miller of New Corydon, Indiana, Gerald (Helen) Miller of Decatur, Indiana, Ann Miller of Fort Wayne, Indiana, Jean Wilder of Decatur, Indiana, Betty (Robert) Hemmelgarn of Burkettsville, Ohio, Tom Miller of Hicksville, Ohio, and Marcia Miller of Coldwater, Ohio.

In addition to her parents, Vi was preceded in death by her first husband, Alton Hemmelgarn, and her second husband, Richard Miller; her siblings, Werner (Gwenda) Wenning, Ernest Wenning, Edward Wenning, Dick (Rita) Wenning, Monica (Leonard) Streaker, Paul (Norma) Wenning, Rosemary (John) Timmerman and Otto (Rita) Wenning; and her in-laws, Jim Miller, Mark Miller, Mary Ann Miller, Gerald Miller and Jim Wilder.



Miller

See page 5

Felony arrests

Methamphetamine

Multiple people were arrested recently for drug possession.

Caytlyn M. Ingram, 23, 628 E. Main St., Portland, was arrested Dec. 22 and charged in Jay Superior Court with possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony, and possession of paraphernalia, a Class A misdemeanor. She's being held at Jay County Jail on a \$3,000 bond.

Danielle L. Ingram, 19, 628 E. Main St., Portland, was arrested Dec. 22 and charged in Jay Superior Court with possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony, and possession of paraphernalia, a Class A misdemeanor. Ingram is being held on a \$4,000 bond at Jay County Jail.

Harley D. Ingram, 20, 628 E. Main St., Portland, was arrested Dec. 22 and charged in Jay Superior Court with possession of cocaine or a narcotic drug, a Level 6 felony, and a Class B misdemeanor for possession of marijuana. She was released on a \$4,500 bond from Jay County Jail.

Zachary T. Ingram, 34, 633 W. 200 North, Portland, was arrested Dec. 22 and charged in Jay Circuit Court with a Level 5 felony for possession of a narcotic drug, two Level 6 felonies for obstruction of justice and possession of a controlled substance and a Class A misdemeanor for possession of marijuana. Ingram was released on a \$15,000 bond from Jay County Jail.

Marquis J. Fitzpatrick, 34, was arrested Dec. 30 and preliminarily charged with a Level 4 felony for possession of methamphetamine and a Class A misdemeanor for false identity statement. He's being held in Jay

County Jail on a \$16,000 bond and as well as on separate charges from Marion County.

Failed to appear

A Pennville man was arrested Dec. 29 for failing to appear in court.

Jason B. Brown, 50, failed to appear for a jury trial in a Jay Superior Court case. He was found guilty of operating a vehicle after forfeiture of license for life, a Level 5 felony, and auto theft, a Level 6 felony. Brown's sentencing hearing is slated for 3 p.m. Feb. 7.

He's being held without bond in Jay County Jail.

SERVICES

Wednesday

Brown, Frances: 2 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Thursday

Murray, Elizabeth: 2 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Friday

Louck, Joe: 11 a.m., MJS Mortuaries, 109 S. Meridian St., Redkey.

Saturday

Miller, Viola: 10 a.m., Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, 403 Sharpsburg Road, Fort Recovery.

Jan. 14

Theurer, Donald: 1:30 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

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Pie left behind mess

By DIANA DOLECKI
The Commercial Review

It was a great beginning to the new year.

Both of my brothers and their wives came over to celebrate Christmas. We had originally scheduled a get together on Christmas Day, but Mother Nature had other plans. The roads were bad and the weather was miserable. So we decided to wait until this week.

Today was chilly and wet. It was perfect for visiting. We had prepared a good dinner complete with a couple of desserts. I had purchased a frozen cherry pie a few days earlier. I foolishly stored it on the freezer door. The pie didn't want to wait until today to be baked and served.

It decided to melt its cherry juice to get even for the indignity of being stored in the freezer door. There were bright red dribbles all the way from the freezer door to the bottom of the refrigerator. It looked like a massacre. The sticky syrup was in all the crevasses of the seals on both top and bottom doors. It left splotches in random places. It even tried to weld the doors shut. I can now say that my refrigerator doors are clean on the inside and there is no more sticky cherry syrup where it doesn't belong.

I have yet to taste the pie. My

As I See It



brothers said it was good and went back for seconds. We ate and talked and ate and talked some more. We caught up on my brother Michael's new job. He will be working with our brother, David. David has worked at the same place for well over 20 years. They keep trying to promote him but he wants nothing to do with it. He would rather go to work, do his job and go home.

Michael has worked several places over the years and never has any problem finding a job. Both of my brothers do the same kind of work.

The subject changed from work to what our kids and grandkids were up to. We talked about the one who is getting married this year. Maybe. Another hasn't been heard from in a few years. We wondered if one was still working at Walmart. I told them about daughter Beth's recent hunting trip. Her husband and boys had left her alone while they tried to scare up a deer or other game. She heard something rustling

behind her and thought it was the guys trying to scare her.

Then she saw her boys coming to her from a different direction. She never did find out what had been making the noise behind her.

The conversation then turned to Michael's wife's upcoming surgery. Apparently her hip replacements have been recalled. A date has yet to be set for her to get new ones. Until then she is dealing with the pain of her defective hips.

That's how I know we are getting old. We readily discuss our various ailments, treatments and remedies. We offer suggestions and options for making things easier. It is hard for me to remember when we didn't have assorted doctors who specialize in various parts of the body. Now it is unusual for any of us to not be on various medications to control a variety of problems.

Ailments, remedies, kids, jobs and cherry pie are some of the minutiae of our lives. We may not have had a traditional Christmas this year but being together for a good meal and even better conversation was a great way to spend a rainy afternoon. It was a good way to start the new year off right ... despite the cherry pie's best efforts.

Woman turns to men online

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for 37 years to an alcoholic. He is not verbally or physically abusive.

I have been online talking to three men. I think one of them is obsessed with me, and they all say they love me. I know this isn't going anywhere, but why am I doing this? I don't know these men at all. I don't see them in person. Two are supposedly on a ship; the other is in the Army. They don't know where I live. I have told them I'm older than they are; I'm 66. (They are 37, 47 and 57.)

I know a person can feel alone in a marriage. That's how I felt for years. Now I just feel like we're roommates. I'd appreciate any insight you might have about why I'm doing this. — LIVING A SOAP OPERA

DEAR LIVING: I suspect you engage in these online relationships because you are lonely and seeking val-

Dear Abby



idation that you aren't receiving from your husband.

It is also probably exciting to feel you are attractive to men after living with someone who is uninterested and unresponsive for so many years. It's sad that you have had to resort to emotional affairs to supply what is missing in your marriage.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Consider food resolutions this year

By EBONY WILLIAMS
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution
Tribune News Service

While New Year's resolutions flood social media at the end of every year, 80% of people won't keep their resolutions past February.

Having goals in mind for a better you can be a little tough to manage if you aren't properly set up for success.

Here are five food resolutions to consider for 2023:

Meatless Monday

This trend started in 2003 by Sid Lerner, the founder of the Monday Campaigns, as a vision to encourage people to eat less meat and more healthier plant-based options.

Eating less meat not only helps with energy levels but also reduces heart disease. According to heart.org, eating less meat decreases the risk of stroke, obesity, high blood pressure, high cholesterol and many cancers.

Eat slower

With the world back in motion, people are busier than ever. But trying to cram in a meal — literally — leads to bad eating habits. Eating too fast leads to bloating and gas. According to Healthline, it can also increase your risk of Type 2 diabetes, insulin resistance and metabolic syndrome.

Consider sticking to a mealtime schedule so you don't feel rushed when you eat.

Increase fish intake

Fish is loaded with nutrients like proteins, omega-3 fatty acids and vitamin D. It's also a great food for heart and brain health. To get the most out of fish, roast, pan sear, air fry or bake whenever possible.

If fish isn't your thing but you still want to get omega-3s, look into vitamins such as fish oil or omega-3 pills.

Eat breakfast

The first meal of the day is very important. And yet one out of five

people in the U.S. skip it. The most common reasons listed for opting out of breakfast are not having enough time and not feeling hungry in the morning. But skipping breakfast can impact your metabolism, energy levels and hunger throughout the day.

A great way to make sure you eat breakfast is to plan it out. The latest trend of preparing breakfast is overnight oats or parfait bowls.

Drink more water

The amount of water you're supposed to drink seems vary depending on the source — some experts recommend eight or nine 8-ounce cups per day, while other studies suggest 11.5 cups for women and 15.5 cups for men. Whichever number is correct, you're probably not drinking enough water.

Your water intake needs are partly based on your lifestyle. Consult with your health care provider to weigh your options on how much water you should be drinking.

Community Calendar

Notices will appear in Community Calendar as space is available. To submit an item, email news@thecr.com.

Today

BRYANT COMMUNITY CENTER EUCHRE — Will be played at 1 p.m. each Tuesday. The public is welcome.

A BETTER LIFE - BRI-

ANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for substance abuse. Meal starts at 6 p.m. and the meeting is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday at the Nazarene Fellowship Building across from the Nazarene church, 249 E. Center St., Dunkirk. For more information, call Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (567) 279-8352 or (260) 729-7000.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. each Tuesday at Church of God of Prophecy, 797 N. Creagor Ave. in Portland. For more information, call (260) 766-9334.

Wednesday

WEDNESDAY MORNING BREAKFAST CLUB — Will meet at 8 a.m. in the east room of Richards Restaurant.

PING PONG — Will be played from 11 a.m. to noon on Wednesdays at West Jay Community Center.

PORTLAND ROTARY

CLUB — Will meet at noon each Wednesday at Harmony Cafe, 121 N. Meridian St.

SINGLES AND SEPARATES SUPPORT GROUP — For anyone who's lost a loved one or has a spouse living in long-term care or suffering from an illness, the group will meet at 2 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month in the Arthur & Gloria Muselman Wellness Pavilion in Berne. For more information, call Sarah Conrad at (260) 589-4496.

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP — New Beginnings, a support group for friends and families of alcoholics, will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday in the Zion Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 726-8229.

Sudoku

3	7				2	8	1	5
1		4				9		7
					6	4		
4	1		6				5	
	6	2	4	5				1
		3	1	2			9	4
6		9						
	5	1						6
	4		2			1	3	

Level: Beginner

Saturday's Solution

1	4	7	2	8	5	6	9	3
9	6	2	3	1	4	8	7	5
3	8	5	9	6	7	1	2	4
6	2	4	5	9	8	3	1	7
7	3	8	6	4	1	9	5	2
5	1	9	7	3	2	4	6	8
8	7	1	4	2	9	5	3	6
2	9	6	8	5	3	7	4	1
4	5	3	1	7	6	2	8	9

The objective is to fill a nine-by-nine grid so that each column, each row, and each of the nine three-by-three boxes (also called blocks or regions) contains the digits from 1 to 9 only one time each.

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Effort to save bridge is continuing

To the editor:
Hello friends, I want to give you an update on the progress of saving our Big Blue Bridge.

As of this writing, we are approaching 1,700 signatures. I met with Jay County Commissioners and presented your comments, the petitions and a heartfelt request for their help. I was able to clearly show how the Big Blue Bridge is a well-loved local landmark that people greatly enjoy and want to see remain in our community. Many simply were not aware we were about to lose our bridge and were disappointed that we didn't have the opportunity to share our thoughts.

It's hard to picture Portland without our Big Blue Bridge adorning the highway. Every historic or architectural landmark that we have helps people connect with and appreciate the uniqueness of our community. If we lose our bridge, we lose another part

Letters to the Editor

of who we are and one of the distinctive landmarks for which Portland is known.

Many thanks to our commissioners for their support. They agreed to draft a letter to Indiana Department of Transportation and helped me make contact with the company that is contracted to demolish the bridge. We hope to save the bridge where it is or, if necessary, move it over and connect it with the Jay-Randolph Developmental Services exercise trail and Hudson Family Park trails.

I shared our story with Indiana Landmarks, a historic preservation organization. They are

impressed with how well our community is rallying together to save our historic bridge. They encourage everyone who cares about the bridge to contact INDOT immediately while we inquire about having a meeting to explore the possibilities. Our hope is that INDOT and Milestone Construction would be willing to renegotiate the contract and change plans from new build to a repair/restore. If both agree, it would make a great story of how the community, the state and a great company came together — against all odds — to create a happy ending for a small town.

When repaired and restored, a steel truss bridge will continue to last long past the new concrete pedestal bridge. The strength of a steel truss is quite amazing. With a new decking, our bridge can be made even stronger. If it was beyond repair or if it was more expensive to restore it, then we would have to look at other alter-

natives. Currently, the cost to repair/restore the bridge is only \$1.3 million but the cost to demolish and build a plain concrete bridge is over \$3.3 million. A new build will require them to pour two large concrete pedestals under the bridge into the creek bed area, which will have to be cleaned out periodically, whereas our current bridge spans the full 150 feet without having anything beneath it to gather debris.

The Big Blue Bridge is a source of pride that welcomes visitors to our town. It connects us with people and communities nearby. The beautiful bridge is impressive to look at and fun to drive through. It's important to preserve local landmarks for future generations. Our Parker Steel Truss Bridge is the last of its kind in all of Jay County. They don't make unique architectural treasures like this anymore.

Time is running out. We need your help to be more effective.

We only have a month or so left to get the full attention of INDOT. We must show how much the bridge means to our community. We want to restore for considerably less money than it will cost to replace it. I hope you are inspired to help us save a special part of our community.

Please email Mary Kennedy at mkenney@indot.in.gov. Contact your state officials, J.D. Prescott, Travis Holdman and Todd Rokita. Let them know how much the bridge means to us. The time is now to compel them to help us set up a meeting and re-look at the bridge project.

This is our last chance — once a bridge like ours is gone, we can never get it back.

For a complete list of contacts, see our Save the Big Blue Bridge Facebook page or contact Jenny Bricker at (260) 251-5595.

Jenny Bricker
Rural Portland

Americans vote with their U-Hauls

Las Vegas Review-Journal
Tribune News Service

New Census Bureau numbers released last week reveal an unmistakable trend: High-tax blue states are losing residents to low-tax red states.

Are elected officials listening?

Each year, U.S. Census officials release an analysis of migration patterns. The most recent report — which looks at data from July 2021 through June — paints a clear picture of Americans moving out of progressive bastions.

The 10 states with the most net domestic population loss have a bright blue hue: California, New York, Illinois, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Louisiana, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Minnesota. Meanwhile, the 10 states that enjoyed net domestic population increases have a decidedly red tinge: Florida, Texas, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, Arizona, Idaho, Alabama and Oklahoma.

Overall, the U.S. population grew by about 1.2 million during that time, most of that from foreign immigration. The bureau estimates that Nevada grew by about 1% to 3.146 million people.

Some of these developments are a continuation of longer trends that have seen Americans for decades leaving colder Midwest and Northeast states for warmer southern confines. Yet, as The Wall Street Journal noted, all of Illinois' neighbors gained population except Michigan. The California exodus also stands in stark contrast to the weather excuse. So do migration gains made by Idaho and Montana.

The numbers reveal that economic opportunity represents a better indicator of a state's fortunes.

New York and California have among the highest state income taxes in the nation. Both have regulatory climates that are hostile to business and entrepreneurs. Housing costs in the two states remain prohibitive. SFGate reported in November that "the rate of California businesses leaving the state more

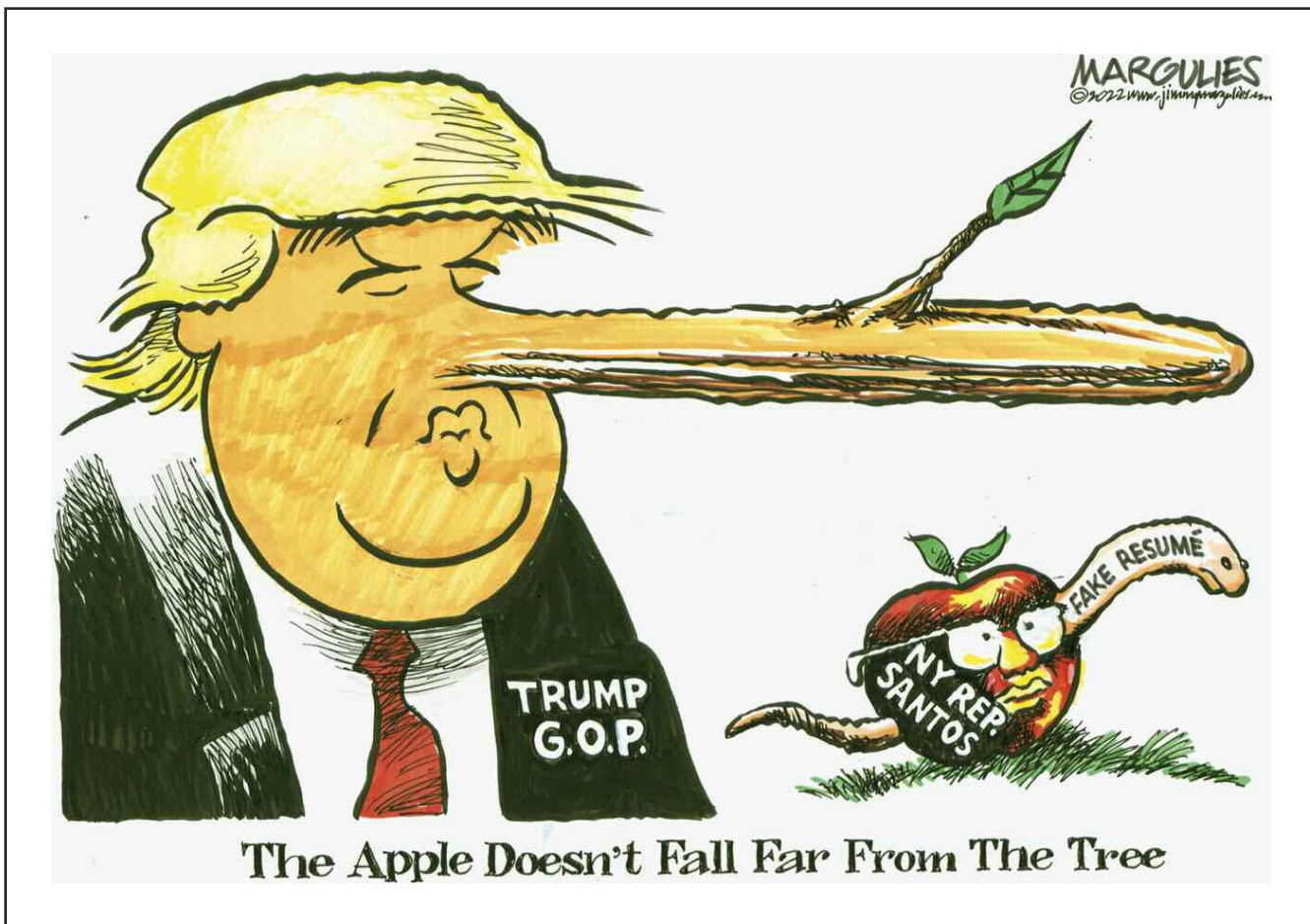
Guest Editorial

Some of these developments are a continuation of longer trends that have seen Americans for decades leaving colder Midwest and Northeast states for warmer southern confines.

than doubled in 2021, leading a new analysis to posit that the state may be 'risking its economic future.'" Those fleeing the Golden State include 11 Fortune 500 companies. Illinois, the bronze medal winner in the hit-the-road sweepstakes, is a high-tax, fiscal basket case controlled by public-sector unions.

Contrast that with Florida, Texas, Tennessee and Arizona, all of which feature low taxes, a welcoming business climate and reasonable housing costs. Opportunity is plentiful in these GOP bastions, while employment has yet to reach pre-pandemic levels in lockdown-happy California, New York and Illinois.

Democrats like to brag that high taxes and a hyperactive administrative state allow blue states to provide a wide range of government "services" and thus help to retain residents and attract newcomers. The census numbers say otherwise — and should be a warning to Nevada lawmakers every time they move to mimic the latest fad that gains traction in Sacramento.



Questioning tradition can be fun

By MICHAEL LEPPERT
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

To me, holidays are merely exercises in tradition, or traditions. Sometime in my forties, I began to question all of them, reliving the "why" phase of my childhood for some unknown, yet admittedly irritating reason. Why do we eat turkey on Christmas? Why is everything closed?

And it isn't just the holidays. When did we start naming unpleasant weather events, and why is it just the unpleasant ones? Shouldn't an unusually beautiful day be named Mona Lisa or Brad Pitt?

If we must name bad weather, can we at least name it after we have gotten to know it a little? "Elliot" sounds more like a companion to share a pleasant cup of coffee with, not a horrifying monster. The most recent freeze should've been named "Polar Freeze-illa," or even more simply, "Holy S*it, It's Cold."

Likewise, Ian sounds more like a date for a shared spot of tea. Hurricane Ian turned out to be no tea-date for anyone, though. Any new parents in Southwest Florida naming a child Ian for the foreseeable future might have some explaining to do later.

With continued disregard for tradition, we had our first holiday celebration this year over sushi at a crowded restaurant with my younger son and his girlfriend on the 23rd. One of the restaurant managers appeared to be having a crowd-induced nervous breakdown. Her anxiety made me anxious. We were seated on the corner of the packed restaurant, so I felt her breeze blow by several times even before we met our server. I couldn't take my eyes off her. She had a look on her face that communicated, "if there is one more problem in here, I'm going to clear the room."

Tradition would have had me ask

Michael Leppert



for a manager, but this time the manager was the problem. Organizing a coup, or intervention, with the rest of the staff was the obvious right thing to do, but my wife wouldn't let me.

We exchanged gifts after the dinner rush passed, and the frantic manager calmed down. My son is a relatively recent college graduate, so he gets a kick out of my new job as a university lecturer. His gift to me: a black, long sleeve t-shirt with these words written in bold white: "Everything I say will be on the exam." I absolutely will be wearing that shirt on the first day of classes in January. Relax kids, it's a speech class. We don't have exams.

My son's girlfriend has the best new tradition I've heard. She is committed to trying something new every month. In December, she loaded up on Dramamine and went with us on our deep-sea fishing adventure. On this trip, she hooked the prize fish of the day, a 70-pound Kobia, and fought it for half an hour on light tackle. Exhausted and blistered, she informed us she won't need to do it again.

On the morning of Christmas Eve, I asked the woman at the gym what their hours would be tomorrow. Without looking up from her desk, she said "we are closed on Christmas Day." An electric menorah was sitting on the counter between us. I considered telling her I would open up the place for her, since there are about a dozen of us who do our praying while on the

treadmill, but politeness got the best of me, and I just said, "thank you," instead, never drawing eye contact from her.

For Christmas Eve dinner, we had a simple, delicious, but non-traditional homemade favorite, lasagna.

To celebrate Christmas morning, I took my wife to Miami for the Dolphins/Packers game. This may sound as heartfelt as giving your wife lingerie or a washer/dryer, but both of her fantasy football teams are competing in both leagues' Super Bowls. She knocked my team out last week. With the indoor Colts being unwatchable this year, we were excited to watch a game in the sunny outdoors that wouldn't leave us enraged.

Elliot reached South Florida too, though, bringing us one of the coldest Christmas Days in Miami history. Hard Rock Stadium sold out of that coffee I thought of sharing with the storm.

Non-traditionally, I had an excellent Cuban sandwich for Christmas "dinner" at the ball game. I rank it higher than the last turkey I ate. On the winter storm naming list, Fernando, a common Cuban name, follows Elliot. The winter storm I experienced was way more like Fernando than Elliot. I'm just saying.

My son's girlfriend is wise to seek out new things to try. Abandoning tradition made my holiday uniquely wonderful this year. From the bottom of my heart, I wish the same for all of you.

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Leppert is an author, educator and a communication consultant in Indianapolis. He writes about government, politics and culture at MichaelLeppert.com.

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JOHN C. "JACK" RONALD (1948-2022), Publisher Emeritus



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We welcome letters to the editor. Letters should be 700 words or fewer, signed and include a phone number for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit letters for content and clarity. Email letters to news@thecr.com.

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—Thomas Jefferson

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TUESDAY EVENING, JANUARY 3, 2023

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Obituaries

Continued from page 2
Vi previously owned and operated Miller's Dairy Drive-In and the former Rich & Vi's Carryout, both in Fort Recovery. She spent several years working for Brockman-Boeckman Funeral Home as a receptionist and Hull Brothers, both of Fort Recovery. Vi was a member of the Fort Recovery

American Legion Auxiliary Post 345, Mary Help of Christian's Catholic Church and the church's Altar Sodality.
A Mass of Christian Burial will take place at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 7, 2023, at Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church in Fort Recovery, with Father Ethan Hoying celebrating. Burial will

follow in St. Mary's Cemetery in Fort Recovery.
Guests may visit with Vi's family on Friday, Jan. 6, 2023, from 2 to 7 p.m. and again on Saturday from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. at Brockman Boeckman Funeral Home, Fort Recovery.
Memorials may be made to the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation,

6520 N. Andrews Ave., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309, or the American Alzheimer's Association, 8180 Greensboro Drive, Suite 400, McLean, VA 22102.
Condolences may be shared with the family by visiting brockmanboeckmanfh.com.
.....
The Commercial Review pub-

lishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services.
There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.

Recommends ...

Continued from page 1
Food and drink
Oliver Winery's Cherry Moscato
The cherry moscato from Oliver Winery and Vineyards in Bloomington became an instant favorite. This semi-sweet wine features Montmorency cherry juice mixed in with quality moscato, creating a tastebud pleaser for anyone looking to pair their charcuterie with something extra fruity. It also gets bonus points for its lovely rose gold color. — Bailey Cline

Strawberry ice cream at Tutti-Frutti
This new ice cream shop owned by Maricruz Estrada and Vanessa Diaz at 133 E. High St. in Portland opened in May. The shop has a variety of flavors, but the strawberry is my personal favorite. When the 90-degree days were beating down this summer, it was the perfect refreshing treat. — Ray Cooney

Movies and TV
Don't Worry Darling
This psychological thriller will have you on the edge of your seat. Viewers quickly notice something isn't right with the utopian 1950s-style company town of Victory. Husbands leave for Victory headquarters each day. Spouses aren't allowed near the premises — it's located in the desert outside town — nor may they speak about the company's work, shrouding it in mystery. As the movie's protagonist, Alice, discovers more about the Victory Project, the seams on a seemingly perfect society begin



Photo provided

Cope Environmental Center, located east of Centerville, is designated as a Living Building, one that consumes net zero energy and water and is constructed of local, sustainable and nontoxic materials on a site compatible with the environment, and careful attention paid to accessibility and beauty.

to split. Stars also litter the cast, which features many talents, including Chris Pine, Olivia Wilde, Florence Pugh and Harry Styles. — Bailey Cline

The 100
I'm slightly disappointed I didn't discover this show during the six seasons it aired. The post-apocalyptic science fiction series ran from 2014 to 2020 and centers around survivors of a space habitat who return to Earth almost a century after a worldwide nuclear fallout. The

first people who return to Earth, dubbed "The 100," are teenage delinquents who are sent to see if it is habitable after the nuclear apocalypse. While there, the group encounters descendants from those who did not escape to space, and the series explores their trials of co-habiting. — Chris Schanz

Podcasts
LeVar Burton Reads
For anyone of my generation, the title should make this one fairly self-explanatory. We

grew up on PBS television shows, including "Reading Rainbow" with Burton reading us stories. This is the same concept in podcast form. Burton hand picks his favorite short fiction and reads it to you. Need a way to relax at the end of a long day? This is a great choice. — Ray Cooney

Other
Living buildings
There are 30 Living Buildings in the world. One of them is in east central Indiana. A Living Building has been certi-

fied by the International Living Future Institute as consuming net zero energy and water, and being constructed of local, sustainable and nontoxic materials on a site compatible with the environment, and careful attention paid to accessibility and beauty. The education center at Cope Environmental Center east of Centerville is a Living Building within easy driving distance. Hiking trails at the center are open dawn to dusk 365 days a year. For more information, visit copeenvironmental.org. — Louise Ronald

Grad ...

Continued from page 1
Other student groups still trail behind their peers, too.
About 77.5% of Black students, 83.9% of Hispanic students and 83.1% of Pacific Islander students graduated as expected in 2022.
That's compared to 92.1% of Asian students and 88.8% of White students.
While the graduation rate for those who receive free and reduced lunch — the nationally-recognized metric for calculating student poverty — increased from 82.8% in 2021 to 83.7% in 2022, the rate for paid meal students was roughly 8.5 percentage points higher.
Only 47.7% of charter school students graduated compared to 89.4% of traditional Indiana public schools in 2022, according to IDOE data. The numbers still show upward momentum for charter schools, which graduated just 40.2% of students in the 2019 graduating class.
IDOE pointed to non-waiver graduation rate improvements, which increased from 78.78% in 2021 to 80.58% in 2022.
The number of students who did not pass the 10th grade standardized exam to qualify for graduation without a waiver dipped 3 points from 2021 to 2022, although that still equates to about 5,000 Hoosiers graduating with the waivers.
To qualify for a waiver, a student was unsuccessful in completing post-secondary-readiness competency requirements by the end of their senior year, according to state statute.
Meanwhile, state officials are still pushing for greater K-12 reforms to better prepare graduates for postsecondary education and the workforce.
Indiana Secretary of

Education Katie Jenner said the data indicates that many students are continuing to recover from the academic impacts of COVID-related learning disruptions.
"Graduating high school is an important milestone as students transition to their next step, whether that's employment, enrollment or enlistment leading to service," Jenner said in a statement.
In recent weeks, she has doubled-down on the importance of adding additional work-based learning opportunities for students and making it easier for high schoolers to access post-secondary education credentials before graduation. Jenner and other state education officials have called on state lawmakers to make curriculum reforms and degree requirement changes a priority in the 2023 legislative session.
"As we seek new and innovative ways to ensure students are best prepared for their future, we must continue to rethink how those four years are structured," she continued. "This includes increasing the number of students having access to a high-value postsecondary credential

before graduation, increasing access to high-quality work-based learning opportunities that allow for additional skill development, as well as providing flexibility for high schools — allowing them to focus on strategic, rigorous coursework that is purposeful for each student's unique path."
Top Republican lawmakers have expressed a desire to "reinvent" high school in Indiana during the upcoming legislative session.
Democratic lawmakers said they will renew their call to automatically enroll qualified students into the 21st Century Scholars program, a statewide grant program that supports student enrollment at two- and four-year schools.
Big education-related funding increases have been requested by education department officials and other advocacy groups, but the state's key budget writers have expressed hesitancy about earmarking additional dollars amid inflation.
.....
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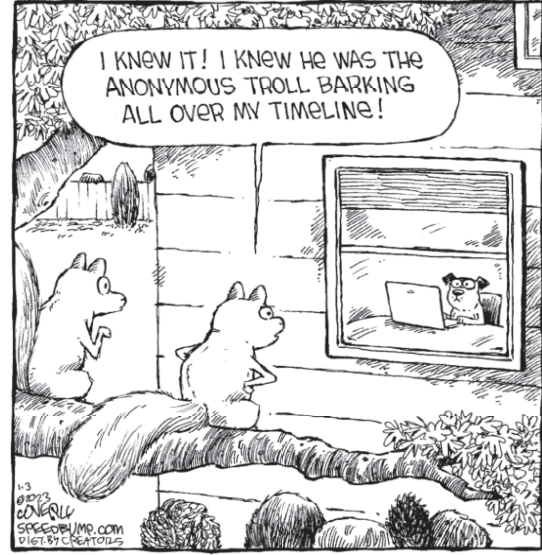
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SPEED BUMP

Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

The worrying kind

East dealer. Both sides vulnerable. NORTH: ♠ 10 3, ♥ K 7 4, ♦ 8 5, ♣ A K Q 9 5 3. WEST: ♠ K 9 7 2, ♥ 9 8 3, ♦ A 10 7 4 2, ♣ 8. EAST: ♠ Q J 6 4, ♥ 6 2, ♦ Q J 9, ♣ J 10 6 4. SOUTH: ♠ A 8 5, ♥ A Q J 10 5, ♦ K 6 3, ♣ 7 2.

dummy's king, on which West showed out. South continued with the ace of clubs, discarding a spade, and then tried leading a diamond to the king. When this lost to the ace, declarer had to go down one, eventually losing three diamonds and a spade.

Had South been a worrier, he would have made his contract. He would have been concerned that the opening club lead might be a singleton, and he would have started to think about how to overcome the possible 4-1 division.

After winning the club, he would have cashed the A-Q of trump and then led a club toward dummy. If both defenders followed suit, he could then play the king of hearts to nail down 12 tricks. But if, as in the actual case, it turned out that West had no more clubs, South would still be assured of 11 tricks whether or not West ruffed.

If West did ruff, South would finish with five hearts, five clubs and a spade. And if West did not ruff, South would still wind up with 11 tricks by winning the club in dummy, ruffing a low club high and leading a trump to dummy's king.

It's easy to see that even with the 4-1 club division and the diamond ace offside, declarer should have made the contract. But, unfortunately, South was not the worrying kind.

The bidding: East South West North. Pass 1♥ Pass 2NT Pass 3♥. Opening lead — eight of clubs.

You can't be a good declarer unless you're also a worrier. You have to worry about finesses that might fail, about suits that might break badly, and just about anything else your mind can conjure up.

If you don't think along such lines, you're sure to suffer the consequences from time to time, as South did in this deal where he went down in four hearts.

West led a club. Declarer won with the queen, drew three rounds of trump and played a club to

Tomorrow: The Rule of Eleven. ©2023 King Features Syndicate Inc.

1-3

CRYPTOQUIP

IGV DNNH GXO PVVH KVVQHA NYI NK ONCIO FXIVFL, PYI Q ECVQYDV QI'O NHFL ANQHA IGCNYAG X EGXOV.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A PERSON WERE TO FIX DINNER FOR A PREVIOUS WIFE OR HUBBY, WHAT HAVE THEY DONE? FED EX.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals G

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a solution time of 22 mins and a reference to yesterday's answer.

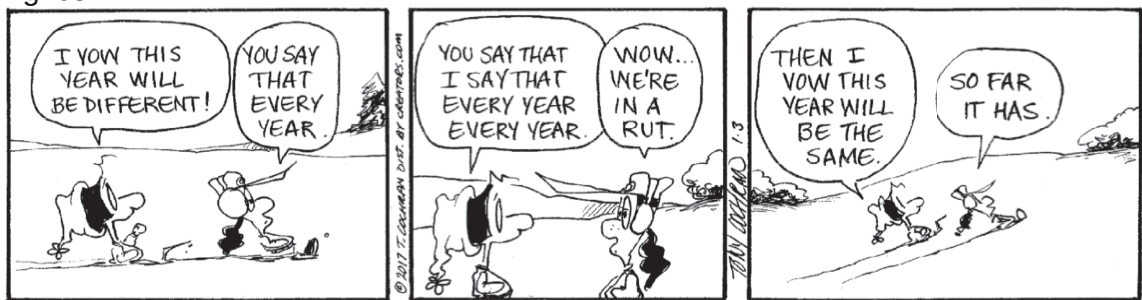
Peanuts



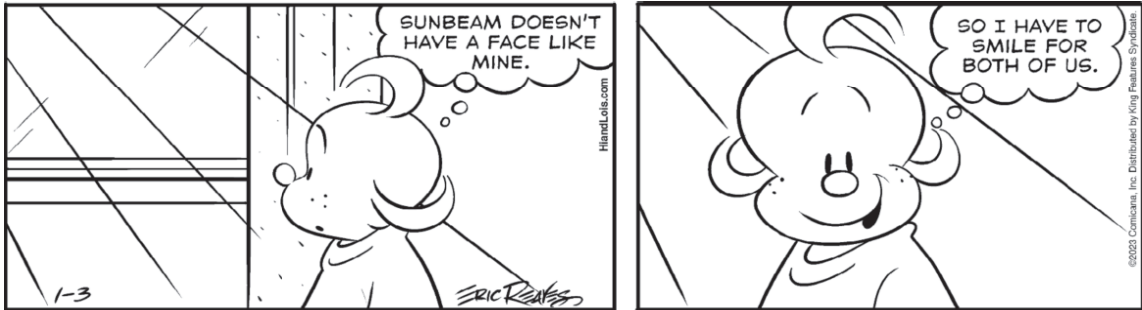
Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



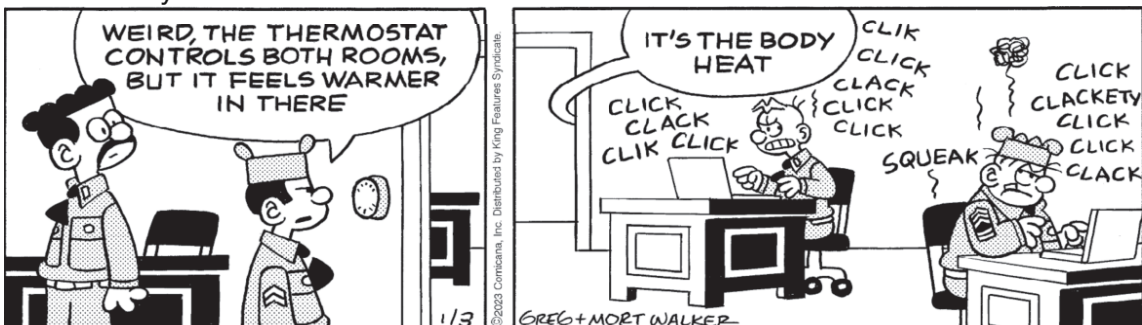
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Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



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Top 10 ...

Continued from page 8
The one she got Sept. 20 against Delta was her record breaker. Bader scored once in the first half and then sealed a 5-1 victory with two more in the second, the last coming with 8:02 and giving her 64 career goals to break the Patriot school record held by 2016 graduate Gabbie Mann. With a five-goal performance 12 days later, she broke Mann's single-season scoring record of 32. She finished with 37 goals for the season and 74 for her career.

3. First Winner

Jay County has been one of the leaders in the drive to grow girls wrestling in Indiana and Mallory Winner earned herself a spot in school history in January when she won its first state championship. Winner trailed Purdue Polytechnic's Cydney Bassett in the 160-pound championship match but remained unfazed. She quickly came up with a reversal and never let Bassett score again, pulling away for an 11-2 major decision. The win capped a perfect 25-0 season in which two-thirds of her victories, including the opening match of the state finals, came by pin.

4. Selvey steps away

Lea Selvey's career coaching the JCHS baseball team came to a close on Memorial Day when the Patriots lost 6-2 to New Castle in the sectional semifinal at Yorktown. He had announced his impending retirement a few weeks earlier and had been honored by his staff and players at his final home game May 23 against South Adams. Selvey, a 1975 Redkey High School graduate, coached Jay County for 34 years, finishing with a 530-352 record (a .601 winning percentage), with seven sectional crowns, six conference championships and three regional titles.

5. Patriots win 21

Jay County's boys basketball team put together one of the best years in school history, surpassing the 2005-06 Class 3A state runner-up squad and the 2012-13 team for the single-season wins record with 21.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

That included a 10-game winning streak and the Allen County Athletic Conference regular-season and tournament titles. The Patriots tied the record with a 44-33 upset of No. 6 New Castle in the sectional opener and broke it by knocking off Hamilton Heights 55-46 in the tournament semifinal. They fell 60-41 to Yorktown in the championship game.

6. FR track earns 3

When Whitley Rammel earned a sixth-place medal in 2021, it marked the end of a decade-long drought for Fort Recovery. That made it even more impressive when the Tribe put three girls on the podium in June, with Rammel finishing third in the shot put, Mara Pearson placing seventh in the long jump and Abby Francis taking seventh in the 200-meter dash. Rammel highlighted the two-day effort as the final throw of her career traveled 40 feet, 11 1/4 inches, to vault her into third place after she had previously been sitting in sixth.

7. Clark 7th at state

Cameron Clark became just the third sophomore in JCHS history to earn a state medal when he defeated eighth-ranked Carson Johnson of Mount Vernon

in the opening round of the state finals at Gainbridge Fieldhouse. (A first-round win guarantees a top-eight spot and a state medal.) He dropped his next two matches before bouncing back to beat Dillon Tuttle of Delta for seventh place. His road to the state medal included a semi-state championship — he defeated Tuttle 7-2 in the championship match — after he had finished second at both the sectional and regional levels.

8. District double

Natalie Brunswick and Trevor Heitkamp had been front-of-the-pack runners all year for the Indians. Both had broken school records at the Sept. 17 Troy Twilight meet. So to see them leading the way in the district races at Columbus Grove was no surprise. Brunswick and Emily Gillson of Patrick Henry were battling midway through the race before the former opened a lead en route to a 16-second win in 19 minutes, 11.8 seconds. Heitkamp also had a challenger in Upper Scioto Valley's Joe Parker but pulled away as well, winning by 11 seconds in 16:16.

9. Strong in the fall

Jay County won three sectional championships

in 2022. The first came in the spring when the Patriot girls tennis team got comeback victories from Brenna Haines at No. 3 singles and Melana and Kaylee Zimmerman at No. 2 doubles to defeat Union City 3-2. Simon Dirksen delivered a 1-6, 6-3, 6-2 comeback to lift the JCHS boys tennis team to a 3-2 victory over Winchester. And the Patriot boys soccer team needed just 33 seconds to score their first goal Oct. 8 on the way to a 2-0 sectional title victory over Eastbrook.

10. Thrilling title

The Indians had a flair for the dramatic in the tournament. Fort Recovery ended a four-year sectional championship drought in May when a Sophie Pearson grounder brought Emma Will home with the game-winning run of a 2-1, nine-inning Tribe victory over Marion Local in the sectional championship game. The FRHS softball team went on to upset sixth-ranked Minster 8-6 in eight innings in the district semifinal before falling to Lincolnview in the district championship game. Pearson and Jackie Homan allowed just one baserunner over the final six innings.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Trevor Heitkamp of Fort Recovery High School runs to victory in the Division III cross country district meet at Columbus Grove. Heitkamp and fellow junior Natalie Brunswick swept the district championships at the meet.

Roundup ...

Continued from page 8
In the Indiana Basketball Coaches Association girls poll released Sunday, the Patriots finished 31st in the voting.

JCHS (13-1), which is ranked fifth in Class 3A, was among the

“other schools receiving votes” in this week's coaches poll. It trailed Huntington North (11-2) and was ahead of Lake Station Edison (10-2).

South Bend Washington (17-0) topped the poll, receiving 19 of 20

first place votes. Center Grove (12-4) was the final team on the top-20 list.

JH girls roll

The Jay County junior high girls basketball teams cruised to

a couple of victories to open the new year, with the eighth grade team beating Delta 49-21 while the seventh graders scored a 41-9 win.

Hallie Schwieterman's 21 points led the way for the Patriot eighth graders. Elizabeth

Brunswick joined her in double figures with 11 points and Kylie Shannon added nine.

In the seventh grade game, Shannon set the pace with 11 points. Brunswick added 10 points and Amelia Heath had eight.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Boys basketball at Bishop Luers — 6 p.m.; Girls basketball at Concordia — 6 p.m.; Swimming vs. Bellmont — 6 p.m.; Wrestling vs. Coldwater — 6:30 p.m.; Junior high boys basketball at Delta — 5:30 p.m.; Junior high wrestling vs. Coldwater — 6:30 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Swimming three-

team meet at South Adams — 5:30 p.m.; Boys basketball at Arcanum — 6 p.m.; Junior high girls basketball vs. St. John's — 5:30 p.m.

Thursday
Jay County — Swimming vs. Celina and Coldwater — 6 p.m.; Freshman boys basketball vs. Anderson — 6 p.m.; Junior high boys basketball at Selma — 5:30 p.m.; Junior high girls basketball vs. Fort

Recovery — 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Girls basketball at St. John's — 7 p.m.; Junior high boys basketball at St. John's — 5:30 p.m.; Junior high girls basketball at Jay County — 6 p.m.

TV sports

Today
2:45 p.m. — Soccer: Premier

League — Newcastle United at Arsenal (USA)
5 p.m. — High school football: Under Armour Next All-America Game (ESPN)
7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Nebraska at Michigan State (BTN)
10 p.m. — NHL hockey: Dallas Stars at Los Angeles Kings (ESPN)

Wednesday
3 p.m. — Soccer: Premier League —

Tottenham Hotspur at Crystal Palace (USA)
7 p.m. — NBA basketball: Indiana Pacers at Philadelphia 76ers (Bally Indiana)
7 p.m. — NHL hockey: New Jersey Devils at Detroit Red Wings (TNT)
7:30 p.m. — NBA basketball: Milwaukee Bucks at Toronto Raptors (ESPN)
9:30 p.m. — NHL hockey: Tampa Bay Lightning at Minnesota Wild (TNT)

10 p.m. — NBA basketball: Miami Heat at Los Angeles Lakers (ESPN)

Thursday

7 p.m. — NHL hockey: St. Louis Blues at New Jersey Devils (Bally Indiana)
7:30 p.m. — NBA basketball: Boston Celtics at Dallas Mavericks (TNT)
10 p.m. — NBA basketball: Los Angeles Clippers at Denver Nuggets (TNT)

90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION

Located: : 3953 S. 600 E. SALAMONIA, IN. SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 2023 10:00 A.M REAL ESTATE Two story Commercial building containing 3904 square feet, 14'x24' pole building nicely situated on .3 acres (Former VFW building). For Private showing phone auctioneers. Tractor -Equipment -Tools Ford Golden Jubilee tractor; ; Century wire feed welder; Miller stick welder; Shop mate; Antique horse drawn dump cart. Antiques-Furniture- Household Wrought iron furniture; wicker love seat; Jesse French upright piano; galv. drum; 20 gal. cast iron kettle; smelting pot; granite coffee pots; fire hydrant; patio and outdoor furniture; basket collection; rugs; bicycles and tricycle.

90 SALE CALENDAR

OWNERS: ROGER LOCKER, DECEASED Shawver Auctioneering and Real Estate AC31800004 AUCTIONEERS Pete D. Shawver AU19700040 260-726-5587 Zane Shawver AU10500168 260-729-2229 Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos. PUBLIC AUCTION Located: Bubp Building at the Jay County Fairgrounds East Votaw St. Portland, IN. SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 2023 10:00 A.M REAL ESTATE Tract 1- Located at 204 W. Votaw St. Portland, IN. Going business to include Real Estate and inventory. Tract 2- Located at 220 W. Votaw St. Portland, IN. Tract 3- Located at 203 W. McNeil Street, Portland, IN.

90 SALE CALENDAR

NOTE: Real Estate is being offered at 10:00 a.m. at the Bubp Building. Will be offered in parcels and combinations. For a private showing phone auctioneers. Camper-Skid Loader-Vehicles-Trailers 1998 Chevy Georgie Boy Swinger motor home, 34,500 miles, 2004 Ford Explorer XLT 147,000 miles; West Coast Chopper mini bike (new). Antiques-Furniture-Household (2) Duncan Phyfe drum tables; wooden trunk; large lot of Tiffany style lamps; lot of Star Trek Memorabilia; crocks; galv. Washtubs; old bicycles; Coca Cola items; Colts Grill; Smoker; and many items not mentioned. OWNERS: ROGER LOCKER, DECEASED Shawver Auctioneering and Real Estate AC31800004 AUCTIONEERS

90 SALE CALENDAR

Pete D. Shawver AU19700040 260-726-5587 Zane Shawver AU10500168 260-729-2229 Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos. 110 HELP WANTED HELP WANTED Cook & Server position, No experience needed, Fair wages, Nights & Weekends Southside in Coldwater Ohio 419-678-3715 CDL OTR DRIVER NEEDED Flexible home times / schedule, Home Weekly, FRT Coronado 13 spd, RGN, SD Trailer, Vac/Holiday Pay, \$91000 yearly/ \$.70/Mile with drop wages. Must have 3 years' experience. 260-273-9169 NANNY WANTED East rural Bryant. Must provide own transportation. 210-262-9731

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Sports

Top 10 sports stories of 2022

Career record Schwieterman's mark leads list

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Records, retirements, state medals and sectional championships.

The most difficult thing about putting together a list of the top 10 local sports stories for a year is not so much selecting them, but putting them in some sort of order.

Arguments could be made for many to top the list, and it's difficult to evaluate individual and team accomplishments against each other.

So, though they will be numbered one to 10, think of this as more of a recap than a ranking, a look at the most important sports happenings over the course of 12 months.

All that said, something has to come in at the top spot. And readers may have already been tipped off on the selection if they read the top 10 local news stories in Saturday's paper.

At No. 1, we went with Renna Schwieterman becoming Jay County High School's all-time scoring leader in girls basketball. It's a mark that had stood for more than three and a half decades and is certainly a worthy topper to this list.

The remainder of the top 10 is as follows:

2. Mara Bader breaks single-season, all-time goals records
3. Mallory Winner earns first girls wrestling state championship for JCHS
4. Lea Selvey retires as Jay County baseball coach
5. Patriot boys basketball team sets single-season wins record



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County High School girls basketball coach Kirk Comer presents Renna Schwieterman with the game ball after she broke the Patriots' all-time scoring record Dec. 15 with a 27-point effort against the host New Castle Trojans.

6. Fort Recovery girls bring home three track state medals
7. Cameron Clark finishes seventh in state
8. Natalie Brunswick and Trevor Heitkamp win district titles
9. JCHS sectional championships
10. Fort Recovery softball extra-innings sectional champions

1. Supreme scorer

By calmly sinking a pair of free throws with 4 minutes, 14 seconds, left on the clock in a Dec. 15 blowout of the host New Castle Trojans, Renna Schwieterman became the most prolific scorer in Patriot history. The pair of foul shots gave her 27 points for the game and 1,459 for her career, breaking the 36-year-old school record held by Shan-

non Freeman by a single point. In three games since, she has pushed her total to 1,514 and is on pace for a career mark of 1,679 with at least eight games remaining on the schedule.

2. Bader breaks

Recording hat tricks was a regular occurrence for JCHS senior Mara Bader.
See Top 10 page 7

Patriots receive a bye in 1st round

The host Patriots could face some familiar opponents.

Brackets for Saturday's Indiana High School Wrestling Coaches Association Team State Duals **Local roundup** — the Class 2A tournament will be held at Jay County High School beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday — have been released, with the top-ranked Patriots among those receiving a first-round bye.

JCHS, which has been ranked No. 1 in Class 2A all season and is 13th overall, will join No. 2 Delta, No. 3 Western and No. 4 Garrett in receiving byes in the first round. Opening-round matches will feature No. 5 Norwell against Owen Valley, No. 6 Belmont against New Prairie, No. 7 Hamilton Heights against Heritage Hills and No. 8 Wawasee against Rensselaer Central.

The Wawasee/Rensselaer Central winner will advance to meet the Patriots in the quarterfinals. If it was to win that match, JCHS could meet Garrett, Norwell or Owen Valley in the semifinals. Delta is a potential finals opponent.

The Patriots have defeated Delta 42-29, Norwell 52-24 and Garrett 48-23 already this season.

Jay 35th overall

Jay County's girls basketball team has been ranked among the top 10 teams in Class 3A all season. It's getting votes in the overall state poll as well.

See Roundup page 7

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